

FROM THE OFFICE OF

Nancy Miller
COMMISSIONER CITY OF TALLAHASSEE



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Signs, Signs, Everywhere the Signs: As you know, managing signs in our community is not simple. Recently the Commission passed a major revision to the sign ordinance, culminating a four year effort. While we all need them to find our way, no one wants a city that is cluttered with signs.

Most attention has been focused on the placement of signs on bus shelters. This generated a fear that signs will proliferate all over Tallahassee. This will not happen, because bus shelter advertising is only allowed in certain commercial zoning districts where off site ads are *already* allowed. They are also prohibited on canopy roads, in historic districts, and in any other special districts.

The revised sign ordinance establishes “gateways” where bus shelter and billboard advertising is *prohibited*. Along these important gateways, billboards will come down whenever possible and no bus shelter signage will be allowed. These gateways include just about every major road in town, including: South Monroe St, South Adams St, Apalachee Pkwy from Magnolia to Monroe, Thomasville Rd from I-10 to Monroe, Tennessee/Mahan from Meridian to Capital Circle NE, Miccosukee Rd from Meridian to Capital Circle NE, Blair Stone Rd, Gaines St, Welaunee Blvd within the City limits, and FAMU Way.

There has also been a lot of focus on the electronic signs, because they had *no* regulation before, and it was time to put something in place. The industry standard of 6-8 seconds has been applied, and if that sounds like flashing, let’s hold our breath for that long. During the time that there were no regulations, yes, numerous businesses installed them. Now that regulatory guidelines are in place, why would they proliferate, especially since the cost to install seems to be around \$40,000? Also, these electronic signs are included in the business’s total allowed square footage for signs and most businesses have used their allowable limit.

Also, the new ordinance requires that if a business becomes unoccupied and is demolished, the sign has to come down too. Every abandoned sign really says “out of business.”

No one seems to like signs...except when trying to find a particular business. The overarching tenet of this revision, the establishment of gateways, has been lost in the criticism. Let’s give these changes a chance.

Upcoming Events

March 6, 2012

Monroe Street Access Management and Lake Ella Implementation Study
City Hall, 5 – 7 PM

March 14, 2012

Regular City Commission Meeting—City Hall, 4 PM

March 19, 2012

Environment & Energy Target Issue Committee Meeting—City Hall, 3 PM

March 26, 2012

Intergovernmental Agency Meeting—City Hall, 3PM

March 28, 2012

Regular City Commission Meeting—City Hall, 4 PM



Tally Top Dog vs. City Kitty Contest: Help end pet overpopulation in Tallahassee by participating in this year's contest. This annual contest raises money to spay and neuter pets in our area, so that every animal can find a home. **To vote for my cat, Lily, please visit this link:**
<https://www.360photocontest.com/page/viewInd/secure/on/id/24856/contestid/124>

Did You Know?

The City offers Rain Garden Grants to help homeowners improve their property and help protect water quality at the same time. To learn more about rain gardens, or to apply for a grant, visit www.tappwater.org

Choose Tallahassee: Millions of baby-boomers all over the United States are getting ready to retire, and *Choose Tallahassee* wants retirees to know about the benefits of living in our area. We have a seasonal, yet mild climate, beautiful rolling hills and canopy roads, access to quality health care, moderate housing costs, educational opportunities, and lots of cultural and recreational activities. If you have family close to retirement age, urge them to consider Tallahassee, and check out www.ChooseTallahassee.com for more information.

Local Business Meetings: Over the past few months I've been visiting local businesses in an effort to learn more about the establishments that make Tallahassee truly unique. I have met with Lucy & Leo's Cupcakery, The Junk King, Ten Thousand Villages, Trail & Ski, Good Friends Group Fitness, Seminole Sitters, The Bookshelf, and most recently, The Black Fig. These business owners know what's really happening in our local economy, and I appreciate hearing about their impressions and ideas.

If you own a local business and would be interested in talking with me, please contact my office at 891-8706.



Mary Managan, of Seminole Sitters, chatting with me at Catalina Café on Capital Circle

Thank you Pet Supermarket!

Special thanks to Pet Supermarket on Apalachee Parkway for their outstanding help in finding homes for 500 cats through a partnership with the Tallahassee Leon County Animal Service Center. We could not adopt out as many animals as we do without partners like Pet Supermarket. Please keep up the good work!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Miller".

Nancy Miller, Commissioner
City of Tallahassee
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To vote for my cat, Lily, please visit this link:
<https://www.360photocontest.com/page/viewInd/secure/on/id/24856/contestid/124>